

HTA Grower Technical Workshop Programme for 2025

Cultural control of plant growth, and optimising the use of plant growth regulators to manage crop growth and development

Springfields Events and Conference Centre, Camel Gate, Spalding PE12 6ET

and Wyeplants Nursery, Mallard Road, Spalding PE12 6ND

Tuesday 9th September 2025

Managing crop height and habit is important to maintain product quality and visual appeal, maximise cropping densities during production and on Danish trolleys at dispatch, and to minimise wastage. Traditionally associated with protected ornamentals, plant growth regulator (PGR) use has also been examined on herbaceous and hardy nursery stock subjects. Other non-chemical growth control means have also been evaluated as alternatives to PGRs. This workshop summarises this work and demonstrates PGR use on Salvia 'Hot Lips'.



Workshop agenda

Time	Content	Speaker
Springfields Events and Conference Centre, Camel Gate, Spalding PE12 6ET		
09:00 – 09:30	<i>Coffee, tea, and refreshments</i>	
Presentations		
09:30 – 10:10	Plant growth and physiology: growth control through mechanical and environmental manipulation	Selchuk Kurtev, Zest Sustainable ICM
10:10 – 10:50	Plant growth and physiology: growth control through nutrition and irrigation management	Selchuk Kurtev, Zest Sustainable ICM
10:50 – 11:00	<i>Coffee, tea, and refreshments</i>	
11:00 – 11:40	Getting the best from Bonzi: application methods, adjuvants, timing of applications, and rates	Sean Loakes, Syngenta UK
11:40 – 12:30	Plant growth regulators: available products and approvals, best practice and use, PGR mixtures, and integration into production programmes	Selchuk Kurtev, Zest Sustainable ICM
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch buffet</i>	
Wyeplants Nursery, Mallard Road, Spalding PE12 6ND		
14:00 – 14:15	Introduction to Wyeplants	Mark Yates, Wyeplants
14:15 – 15:45	Tour around the nursery and demonstration viewing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyeplants herbaceous crop and discussion around PRGs Small plot tests of various PGRs and combinations on Salvia 'Hot Lips' 1L 	Mark Yates and Selchuk Kurtev
16:00	<i>Wrap up, networking and depart</i>	

The number of attendees per business will be limited to two.

BASIS and NRoSO continual professional development points will be available on the day of the workshop.

Addresses and directions:

Springfields Events and Conference Centre, Camel Gate, Spalding PE12 6ET (highlighted in yellow and A on the map) <i>What3words: ///scrapping.decrease.paler</i>	Wyeplants Nursery, Mallard Road, Spalding PE12 6ND (highlighted in yellow and B on the map) <i>What3words: ///managers.bill.incurring</i>
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